

different from the first dry blend,

mixing the first dry blend with an aqueous colloidal silica sol to form a refractory prime coat slurry,

mixing the second dry blend with an aqueous colloidal silica sol to form a refractory back-up coat slurry which may be the same or different from the refractory prime coat slurry,

applying a coating of the prime coat slurry onto an expendable pattern of thermoplastic material to produce a prime coated preform,

applying a stucco of refractory material onto the prime coated preform,

drying the stuccoed, prime coated preform,

applying a coating of the refractory back-up coat slurry onto the stuccoed, prime coated preform to produce a refractory back-up coated preform,

applying a stucco of refractory material onto the back-up coated preform to produce a stuccoed, back-up coated preform,

drying the stuccoed, refractory back-up coated preform,

removing the expendable pattern from the refractory back-up coated preform to produce a green shell mold, and

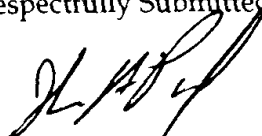
heating the green shell mold to a temperature sufficient to produce a fired ceramic shell mold.--

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-21 are presented for consideration. New claim 21 has been added to recite additional patentable features of the claimed invention. Claim 21 is fully supported by the specification. No new matter is presented.

A check in the amount of \$42, which represents the required fee for a small entity, is enclosed. Applicant looks forward to an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,



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